

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 06077 101538Z

65

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 H-02 SSO-00 /013 W

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O P 101515Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9510

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 6077

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: W/W FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO NON-UNITED STATES NATIONAL

REF: STATE 223520

1. CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY INTERESTED.

2. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FULLY ANSWER REFTEL UNTIL AT LEAST SEPTEMBER 13, SINCE REFTEL RECEIVED ON LOCAL BANK HOLIDAY AND EMBASSY TWO-DAY WEEKEND FOLLOWS. HOWEVER, EMBASSY EXPERIENCE IS THAT PRIVATE BANK TRANSFERS CAN BE MADE FROM UNITED STATES BY TELEX WITHIN 4 TO 6 DAYS TO COMMERCIAL BANK OF SYRIA. FOR TRANSFERS FROM NON-ARAB COUNTRIES, UP TO 50 PERCENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED CAN BE PAID IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES, INCLUDING DOLLARS, AND REMAINDER MUST BE PAID IN SYRIAN POUNDS.

3. IF SUBJECT OF CONGRESSMAN MOAKLEY'S INQUIRY IS ARRANGING AIRFARE TO UNITED STATES, WE WOULD POINT THAT PANAM OFFICE HERE CAN ISSUE TICKETS TO INDIVIDUALS IF PREPAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS MADE WITH PANAM AGENT IN UNITED STATES AND NOTIFICATION SENT TO PANAM OFFICE HERE. THIS CAN ALSO BE DONE BY TELEX.

4. SINCE AMMAN IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE FROM DAMASCUS, POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFERS OF FUNDS TO ALIENS THRU UNITED STATES BANKS IN AMMAN COULD BE ALTERNATIVE.

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5. IN ANY CASE, AS DEPARTMENT POINTS OUT, EMBASSY'S

LIMITED FACILITIES ARE ALREADY STRETCHED TO UTMOST WITH
SERVICES TO OFFICIAL COMMUNITY HERE AND IN BEIRUT. IN
THIS REGARD WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT UNITED STATES DOLLARS
ARE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO PROCURE FOR OFFICIAL PERSONNEL
AND AMCITS WHO RECEIVE TRUST DEPOSITS.

PELLETREAU

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